

DISPATCH

S-E-C-R-E-T

Chief of Station, JMWAVE

XX

Chief, TFW
Operational/CYROSEDepartment of Justice Inquiry Concerning
Alleged Anti-Castro Recruiting Activities

ACTION REQUIRED REFERENCES

1. Headquarters has received an inquiry from the Internal Security Division, Department of Justice, concerning alleged recruiting activities by certain individuals identified as representatives of an anti-Castro movement in New Orleans. The Department of Justice received the information (through the FBI) from the 114th Intelligence Corps Group, U.S. Air Force, New Orleans, Louisiana.

2. Information in the Air Force Intelligence report dated April 3, 1962, reflects that William A. Pennington of New Orleans, Louisiana, advised during interviews on 31 March 1962 and 2 April 1962 that he had been in contact with a Luis RAVEL (phonetic) at 4651 Marigny Street, New Orleans, concerning his possible recruitment for military service against the present regime in Cuba. Pennington reportedly stated that he met with RAVEL and two other individuals connected with the anti-Castro movement on 25 March 1962 and discussed with them his military experience and capability to perform aircraft armament and demolition work. According to Pennington, he was told by these representatives of the Anti-Castro movement that they could utilize his military skills and that he would work at an undisclosed training area in Guatemala and that upon the successful liberation of Cuba he would be given a Captaincy in the Cuban Army. Pennington advised that these individuals, who did not mention the group or organization they represented, showed him during the meeting an invoice from a government surplus concern located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, which indicated the sale of military small arms valued at \$10,000. He further stated that he was told prior to his actually being employed by the group, "authorization would have to be obtained from Miami". During the meeting, according to Pennington, Ravel received a telephone call from Miami, Florida, from an individual whom Ravel identified as "Presidente Cardonas" (phonetic).

(Continued)

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3. In connection with the Air Force report the FBI furnished the following information to the Department of Justice:

One Sergio Arcacha Smith, identified as the former head of the FRD in New Orleans, during an interview on 5 December 1961, identified a Luis REBEL of New Orleans as the delegate to the CRC in New Orleans. Also on a list of members of the CRC in New Orleans, which was made available to the FBI, the address of 4651 Marigny Street was noted with a "Mr. Luis Rabel Nunez" listed as a "Delegado".

4. Headquarters files contain no identifiable information on William A. Pennington and Luis RABEL Nunez. Concerning Sergio Arcacha Smith, our files contain no information other than he was once the head of the FRD in New Orleans.

5. In mid-1961 Headquarters notified the Department of Justice that we had and expected to continue to have a special interest in the activities conducted by the FRD (and now the CRC) and its bona fide affiliation and requested that no action be taken against the CRC for acts that may be committed in the performance of its functions as a central point for enlisting support for anti-CASTRO activities. In connection with this notification and the recruiting activities cited in paragraph 2., the FBI has requested the opinion of the Department of Justice as to whether such recruiting activities indicate a possible violation of the neutrality statutes warranting further investigation.

6. It is requested that the Station discreetly determine from Dr. MIRO if Luis RABEL Nunez is an authorized representative of the CRC in the New Orleans area and his activities are known and approved by the CRC. With this information and any comments the Station may have on the reported activities, Headquarters can make an appropriate reply to the Department of Justice inquiry.

END OF DISPATCH

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